

Valhalla High School
AP Biology
Mr. Halverson

WELCOME

Welcome to the Advanced Placement (AP) Biology! Along with your hard work, this class will prepare you for the AP Exam in biology, should you choose to take it.

Please keep this sheet in your notebook, as you may need to refer to it.

AP BIOLOGY WILL BE:

1. taught, as much as possible, at a first year college level. The class is designed to be the equivalent of a two semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. This applies not only to academic level, but also to **student level of responsibility**.
2. full of new information, concepts, and methods.
3. constantly challenging, occasionally frustrating, often fascinating, and ultimately rewarding.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Go to school and come to **class on time**. Although there is no lockout, continuous class disruption from being tardy will have consequences.
2. Obey all school rules.
3. Respect yourself, everyone, and everything in this room and ***use appropriate language***.
4. Following instructions on laboratory exercises is **EXTREMELY** important. Any unauthorized experiments, unauthorized use of laboratory equipment or supplies, or horseplay is grounds for **expulsion** from this class. If it is not in the directions, don't do it.
5. If you talk during class, interrupt me or other students, distract/disturb other students, etc. you will be assigned a referral. When you receive a referral, you will immediately leave class AND lose credit for **everything** done and assigned in class that day.
6. Each student is entitled to use the **entire** class period to finish his or her exam. Therefore, all students will be quiet until everyone has turned in their exam. When you finish your exam, I strongly suggest that you bring a book, finish homework from other classes, or sit quietly.
7. If you are failing or have a D grade in biology (69.9% or below), I will not allow you to miss class for a school-sponsored event, including field trips of any kind, sporting and cheerleading events, band events, ASB events, etc. You must be passing class (70.0% or higher) for me to approve an excuse list. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!
8. We will all leave together when everyone is sitting at their own desk and there is no trash or the floor. No herding at the doors!

EVALUATION

1. **Exams**: Exams will account for 50% of your grade. Exams will be graded against the highest score earned on the exam or 90%, which ever is lowest, and will consist of multiple choice, matching, and free response questions.
2. **Labs**: Labs will account for 25% of your grade. In addition to the 12 AP Biology laboratory activities, you will also perform many other laboratory activities. Approximately 25% of class time will be devoted to laboratory activities.
3. **Homework**: Homework will account for 10% of your overall grade. It usually consists of vocabulary, questions, and work from the textbook publisher's web site
4. **Final Exam**: The final exam will be worth 15% of your grade. It will consist of multiple choice questions. On the final exam, **one** 3 x 5 inch **handwritten** note card is permitted for use as reference during the **Final ONLY (not for exams)**. Both sides of the note card may be used but must be completed by you (and no one else). Note cards may not be shared for any reason. Note cards may **NOT** have tape, staples, glue, tears or cuts and you may **NOT** use a computer, printer, typewriter, photocopier, or any other method of duplication (electronic or otherwise) to prepare it.

Extra Credit: I do **NOT** give extra credit. Therefore, I encourage you to turn in all of your completed assignments on time.

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS!

TEXTBOOK

Campbell, Neil A., and Jane B. Reece. *Biology*, 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

GRADING

All grades are calculated on a straight scale, which is as follows:

GRADE	RANGE
A	100% → 90.0%
B	89.9% → 80.0%
C	79.9% → 70.0%
D	69.9% → 65.0%
F	64.9% and below

Grades will be recorded on a computer, which rounds decimals to the nearest *tenth*. Therefore, 89.9% is a B+ and **the lowest passing grade is 65.0% (64.9% and below is failing)**! Grades are available at the class web site (<http://members.cox.net/mrhalverson1>) and will be posted every Thursday evening.

Exams will be worth 50% of your overall grade, labs will be worth 25% of your overall grade, homework will be worth 10% of your overall grade, and the final exam will be worth 15% of your overall grade.

EATING/DRINKING/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We have ants and rats and more! Food, including candy, and drinks other than water may not be brought into class and you may NOT eat or drink in class at any time. If I see food or drinks in class, I will confiscate them from you. If you eat or drink in class, I will confiscate your food or drink and you will receive detention. In addition, you may not sell any food items (for sports, ASB, clubs, cheerleading, band, or any other extracurricular activity) during class, or I will confiscate the items.

Let this serve as your warning...do NOT bring food or drinks to class!

NO eating or drinking in class!

iPODs, mp3 players, cell phones and any other electronic devices are allowed inside the class as long as they are put away. They are not for use during class time. ***I will confiscate them and bring them to the office for parent pick up only.***

MAKEUP POLICY

If you are absent, it is **your** responsibility to get the missed assignments before or after class on the next day you are present. **DO NOT** ask me for makeup work during class. You have as long as you were absent to make up the work (if you were absent for 2 school days, then you have 2 school days to make up the work). If you do not get the makeup work from me, then you lose credit for all missed assignments.

Exams are made up at lunch or after school (not during 1st or 7th periods) and will be made up **3 school days** after the regular exam. ***It is your responsibility to remember to take the makeup exam.***

Labs are unique. Once I clean up a lab, I cannot set it up again for one student. Therefore, whatever percent you earn on the exam for that unit, you will receive on the lab for which you were absent. For instance, if you earn an 86% on the exam, you will earn an 86% on the missed lab (86% of 30 points is 25.8 or 26). If you do miss a lab, I suggest that you see me for a copy of the missed lab and speak with someone who was in class to find out what happened during the lab. Exams may contain questions concerning the labs and you will be held responsible for that information.

BATHROOM PASSES

You will be issued 3 bathroom passes per semester. If you do not use the bathroom passes, they may be used to make up missing points. To receive points for the unused bathroom passes, you must have

the unused bathroom passes on your desk as soon as your final exam begins. **Late bathroom passes will NOT be accepted.** All biology classes use the same bathroom pass. For this reason, if you are switched to another biology class, you are responsible for saving your bathroom passes to use in your new class. Furthermore, if you switch to or from general science, your original passes will also work in your new class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to do their own work on **ALL** assignments, unless otherwise directed by the teacher. Academic dishonesty is the unauthorized use of notes, books, other students, Internet, or any other source for answers. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1. cheating on exams (using notes, note cards, cheat sheets, signaling friends, etc.)
2. unauthorized collaboration (such as copying any type of assignment)
3. copying lab activities
4. plagiarism (claiming someone else's work as your own)
5. theft or alteration of materials
6. yelling out answers (even during labs and walkarounds)
7. giving someone the answers on any assignment, in any class, from any class

Working with someone is NOT an excuse to cheat!

Academic dishonesty includes copying assignments from other classes. If I suspect you are cheating for another class while in my class, I will confiscate the assignment and present the materials to the other teacher. The consequences for academic dishonesty are as follows:

1st offense in a semester: referral to the vice principal for academic dishonesty AND no credit (0 points) on the assignment

2nd offense in a semester: referral to the vice principal for academic dishonesty AND dropped from my class with loss of credit

3rd offense (or more) at Valhalla in any semester: referral to the assistant principal for academic dishonesty AND dropped from class with loss of credit

ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY

Each of you is accountable and responsible for your behavior and **ALL** of the work in this class. Missing class to attend any extracurricular events (including field trips, sports, band, etc.) is your **choice** and you are treated as being absent (see makeup policy). No one gets "excused" from any assignment. If you have a D or an F grade you will **NOT** be excused from class. Your absence will be treated as a truancy and you will receive 0 points on all work for that day, including exams.

I am accountable and responsible to you, your parents, and the principal, for my behavior and actions. Because of this, I will hold each of you to the highest standards and make sure you are exposed to a rigorous college preparatory experience. I enforce my classroom rules and the school rules, even if other teachers do not. I do not have control over other teachers and what they do or don't do in the classroom, but I do have control over what happens in my classroom.

MY OFFICE LOCATION & HOURS

You may call or email any time if you or your parents/guardians have any questions, comments, or concerns. If you or your parents/guardians would like to stop by my office, please let me know beforehand.



Office location: room 313



Office phone: (619) 593 - 5477



Email: mhalverson@guhds.net



Web site: <http://members.cox.net/mrhalverson1>